



# AETC Bases News Clips

## LUKE AFB, AZ



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **08-Jan-03**

---

### The sand people

New evidence reveals an arid-land culture that may lay to rest 'poor cousins' label



The Sand People's trade routes crossed the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, just north of the U.S.-Mexico border between Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and the Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range.

Citizen file photo

[PAUL L. ALLEN](#)

Tucson Citizen

Dec. 30, 2002

[El Gran Desierto](#)

[Geoglyphs telling stories? Of what?](#)

Papaguera, the traditional land occupied by the American Indians long known as Papago, has been occupied for at least 11,000 years.

In particular, the western portion of those lands has one of North America's most hostile environments.

High temperatures there can hover between 120 to 130 degrees for months each summer, and rainfall can be as little as 3 inches per year.

While scientists long have assumed the culture that left its mark there was merely eking out an existence, new research indicates the people actually thrived there for centuries.

*The Tucson Citizen*

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 08-Jan-03**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## LUKE AFB, AZ



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **08-Jan-03**

---

### The sand people, Con't.

The findings of the Tucson archaeological firm Statistical Research Inc. could change the way scholars look at prehistoric cultures in the Southwest.

The land, historic home of the people now known by their own name - O'odham - extends from Tucson west to the Colorado River, and from the Gila River in the north, south to Puerto Peñasco, Son., on Mexico's Sea of Cortez (Gulf of California).

Conventional wisdom holds that the prehistoric and historic people of the western Sonoran Desert were forced to the region by stronger, more prosperous peoples.

But intriguing clues suggest they may have stayed there by choice, enjoying a varied and culturally rich existence. Rather than "poor country cousins," they were independent and self-sufficient, enjoying their way of life and priding themselves on their ability to survive.

"We thought the western Papageria would be pretty much devoid of evidence of past cultures - marginally used by human beings - but we're finding lots of material remains," said Statistical Research owner Jeffrey H. Altschul. "It is pretty impressive."

#### 'Stable, successful'

For the past decade, Altschul's firm has conducted archaeological work across the region. Sponsored by the U.S. Air Force on the Barry M. Goldwater Range, the work covers parts of the range's 1.7 million or so acres in the heart of western Papageria.

"I don't think they viewed themselves as less fortunate than the river people," Altschul said of the people of western Papageria. "I think they saw themselves as the center of the universe. My guess is, they viewed themselves as doing pretty well."

Artifacts discovered in Ventana Cave, on the eastern edge of the Goldwater Range, included large, well-made Clovis culture projectile points that date to 11,000 years ago.

"They knew how to live in that environment, and the culture, from an archaeological standpoint, was very stable," he said. "A culture that sustains and mends itself for centuries on end has got to be deemed successful."

The desert dwellers who survived into modern times are the Hia-Ced O'odham - Sand People, earlier known as Sand Papagos. They are cousins to the Akimel O'odham, or River People, who live along the Gila and Salt rivers, and the Tohono O'odham, or Desert People, to the east.

Each tribe speaks a different dialect and has different rituals and different diets historically.

All three coexisted, apparently peacefully, with the Yuman-speaking tribes along the Colorado River, as well.

When Spanish explorers and soldiers first encountered the Hia-Ced O'odham, they described them in disparaging terms as barely human, living on bugs and whatever else was available. By their estimate, the tribe was marginally surviving on a nomadic existence in a constant quest for food and water.

However, Altschul said recent findings suggest they had a rich cultural existence, with ceremonial areas, some large, more permanent settlements. There is even some evidence of farming.

He said even if the evidence is not completely understood, its preservation is important to American Indians.

"The Air Force is doing a good job in trying to protect these things while it pursues its own objectives of military training," he said.

*The Tucson Citizen*

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 08-Jan-03**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## LUKE AFB, AZ



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **08-Jan-03**

---

### The sand people, Con't.

#### Travel, trade flourished

Lorraine Eiler, a retired Indian Health Service administrator, is a Hia-Ced O'odham who grew up in a traditional family in Darby Wells outside Ajo. Stories she's heard all her life bear out some of the discoveries.

"There is an oral tradition, very much so, about trading," she said. "There was nothing else to work with other than trading. They had access to the Sea of Cortez."

The tribe enjoyed positive relations with other tribes, in contrast to the Tohono O'odham, who kept to themselves more, she said.

"I think the Hia-Ced O'odham got along with everybody. They were the friends of all the tribes," she said. "Our people went to the farming areas along the rivers to help with the harvest, too."

The Hia-Ced O'odham ranged as far south as the Sea of Cortez, where they procured fish. Fish were a staple of their diet but were mostly ignored by neighboring tribes.

They also brought back seashells and salt, which they later traded - along with baskets - to the farming tribes for maize, tepary beans, squash and cotton.

They traveled and traded throughout some of the continent's harshest environments, said Adrienne Rankin, archaeologist for the 56th Range Management Office, which oversees the Barry M. Goldwater Range East.

#### Trails stretch to sea

Through years of archaeology work at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, she became intimately familiar with the cultures that once flourished in the region.

"There are major trade networks going through the range and through Organ Pipe and Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, all the way to the Sea of Cortez," she said. "It was a major trade corridor then, and it still is today. There are very extensive trail networks that we can identify."

Rankin said research also has revealed shell-processing areas along the Sea of Cortez, as well as workshops along the trade routes, where items were made and sent on.

"Early on, it looked like they were taking entire shells back, but later in time, it appeared they had set up villages with workshops in them, and were just taking back the finished products," she said.

Oral histories indicate other trails east through the present Tohono O'odham Nation to Tucson and along the Gila River, as well as the prehistoric Camino del Diablo. Father Eusebio Kino and Spanish explorers later used the latter as a route to California.

#### Natural reservoir critical

Many of the ancient trails cross an area known as Tinajas Altas, four miles north of the United States-Mexico border, southwest of Gila Bend. The spot in the Tinajas Altas Mountains was the only source of water for 100 miles. Evidence indicates it has been used regularly by humans since about 8000 B.C.

It consists of a series of tanks, or depressions, worn into the rough granite of the east side of the range. The tanks have an estimated total capacity of 20,000 gallons.

"Bedrock catches the water, and it lasts pretty much year-round," Rankin said. Potsherds and other archaeological evidence indicate Tinajas Altas was a crossroad of cultures for millennia. In prehistory, it was shared by the farming cultures of the Patayan of the lower Colorado River area, the Hohokam of the Phoenix basin, and the Trincheras tribes of northern Mexico's Sonora state.

*The Tucson Citizen*

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 08-Jan-03**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## LUKE AFB, AZ



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **08-Jan-03**

---

### The sand people, Con't.

After the collapse of those cultures around 1450, the Hia-Ced O'odham, and to a lesser extent the Tohono O'odham, Quechan and Cocopah, reoccupied the area.

"Some people would say, 'What is there out there to live for?' " Eiler said. "I would say the people along the rivers had it much easier, but the Hia-Ced O'odham knew how to live in the desert."

*The Tucson Citizen*  
**PAGE: Internet**  
**DATE: 08-Jan-03**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Vance AFB OK



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **08-Jan-03**

---

### **A new ordinance governing airspace for Vance Air Force Base will be discussed during the Enid City Commission study session Tuesday.**

The ordinance was created by the city commission in 1988. The Airfield Environs Overlay District has two purposes - to protect the airspace around Vance and to protect the citizens and property owners from any damages relating to the base. The ordinance provides guidance on uses compatible with airfield accident hazards and noise exposure areas. The ordinance was based on studies with the Air Force. New standards have been recommended for the area, and those also will be discussed.

The ordinance is scheduled for consideration by Metropolitan Area Planning Commission Monday night.

A public hearing will be held on the ordinance during the commission meeting Tuesday.

City department heads have made a list of planned accomplishments for 2003, and the commission also will discuss those.

A memo from City Manager Bill Gamble to the commissioners outlined the plans. Among them, Gamble wants to complete his conversion of the city work force into one that is productive and accountable.

He also wants to complete technical changes in data processing and accounting changes in finance and educate and gain support from the new mayor and commissioners in May toward prioritizing fiscal responsibility and rebuilding and maintaining the city's infrastructure.

Director of Development Services Robert Hitt listed completion and adoption of a revised comprehensive land use plan, review of construction standards and expansion of street inspection and maintenance programs to include local streets and airport as priorities.

During the meeting, OG&E electric services will make its \$100,000 annual payment to the city for economic development.

OG&E also will present a check for \$5,000 for lights at David Allen Memorial Ballpark. The payment is part of the franchise agreement, in addition to the \$100,000, for the ballpark maintenance and upkeep. The payments are part of OG&E's commitment to the community, said John Little, community affairs manager for OG&E.

OG&E remits a 3 percent franchise fee, based on revenue to the city.

Tuesday's check will be through a special agreement made when the last franchise was approved. The company will pay \$100,000 for economic development for 15 years. This is the sixth payment made by that agreement.

***Enid News & Eagle***

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 08-Jan-03**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Vance AFB OK



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **08-Jan-03**

---

### **A grocery business seeking to come to Enid may have to change location because of an airspace environment ordinance approved Monday by the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission.**

Grocery chain ALDI submitted a site plan to locate at Oakwood Mall near Garriott and Oakwood. The area comes within the airspace environment ordinance established to protect the public in the event of an aircraft accident from Vance Air Force Base and also to protect the airspace around the base.

After the MAPC approved the new airspace ordinance Monday, attorney Michael Bigheart, speaking for ALDI, said the site plan conforms with current law and should be considered.

"I can see no basis for denial," Bigheart said.

City Attorney Carol Lahman said the new ordinance specifically prohibits a business such as the grocery store from building in the area. According to the ordinance, the store would be too large and would be occupied by too many people to qualify.

In the section of Vance airspace where the store proposes to locate, no more than 50 people per acre are allowed. For a mercantile store, the formula limits the store to 1,400 square feet of space actually occupied by people. It also allows another 600 square feet for storage.

The types of buildings and formulas for their size were included in the ordinance based on a formula established by the Air Force.

Lahman said the airspace regulations are attached to city ordinances and have been for about two years.

Lahman cited another instance in which a church was not allowed to move into a building because of the airspace ordinance.

MAPC member Irv Honigsberg asked Bigheart why ALDI was "trying to slip under the wire" and locate at the site when other locales are available.

"Why would you want to come in here and endanger Vance? I wouldn't want to do that," he said.

An Oakwood Mall representative said the company was not attempting to endanger Vance. He said Oakwood Mall owners had the land to sell and intended to develop the outparcels when they purchased the property.

Lahman told the MAPC it is a question of public safety and not just an attempt to protect the base.

MAPC Chairman Jim Henderson said MAPC's action will be appealed no matter what members did.

"We're between a rock and a hard place," Henderson said.

***Enid News & Eagle***  
**PAGE: Internet**  
**DATE: 08-Jan-03**



# AETC Bases News Clips Vance AFB OK



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **08-Jan-03**

---

## **A grocery business seeking to come to Enid may have to change location because of an airspace environment ordinance approved Monday by the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission.**

Henderson suggested the staff recommendation of tabling the issue be followed.

Bigheart asked members to either approve or deny the plan. He said ALDI was never told by city officials that the airspace ordinance would change.

Code Director Chris Bauer said that during the first meeting he had with ALDI representatives, he told an engineer for the company the airspace environment may change. ALDI was said to be considering another piece of property on the west side of the mall, Bauer said.

MAPC member Dan Mitchell moved ALDI's plan be denied, but it died without a second. The motion to table was approved.

Enid City Commission will have a public hearing on the airspace regulation during its regular meeting at noon today in city hall.

*Enid News & Eagle*  
**PAGE: Internet**  
**DATE: 08-Jan-03**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Altus AFB, OK



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **08-Jan-03**

# AAFB closure list rumor nixed

Braddock's task force asks governor-elect Henry for a third party to conduct assessments, look at encroachments and to follow through on a Strategic Planning Commission

By **MICHAEL BUSH**

### **ALTUS TIMES**

Rumors of Altus Air Force Base being on the next BRAC closure list have been circulating the area due in part to a web site being produced by Carlton Meyer. Meyer's website looks as if it could be an official military website, but it's not.

When asked about the information on the site, Meyer responded to e-mailed questions by saying, "No, its not official." He explained that he had put Altus on his list simply because, "It is one of the smallest bases in the USAF, measured by active duty personnel." He gave no indication to his background, training or creden-

tials to make such assessments about Altus AFB or any other military installation.

"Rumors of Altus Air Force Base being on an existing BRAC closure list are just not true," said Gwen Brewer of Altus Air Force Base's Public Affairs office.

"The bottom line," said Brewer, "is that there is no official list. Since there is no list - Altus Air Force Base cannot be on it."

The Pentagon estimates it could save over \$3 billion annually if it closed unneeded military bases, and Congress has agreed to authorize an additional round of base closures in 2005. The list of possible BRAC

*The Altus Times*  
**PAGE: 1B**  
**DATE: 08-Jan-03**





# AETC Bases News Clips

## Altus AFB, OK



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **08-Jan-03**

AAFB Closure list rumor nixed, Con't.

“

*The bottom line is that there  
is no list - Since there is no list -  
Altus Air Force Base cannot be on it.*

*-Gwen Brewer, AAFB Public Affairs*

”

(base realignment and closures) has been the topic of many recent rumors in and around the Altus area.

As a matter of fact, the initial selection has not been made. “This is no time to panic,” said Brewer, “If the community panics now, it can only hurt itself.”

State Rep. David Braddock, D-Altus, who is the chairman of the Oklahoma Military Base Closure Prevention Task Force, said today that they are asking governor-elect Brad Henry for a third party to conduct all assessment of bases to determine their strengths and weaknesses. He also said that they need to address the encroachment issue and to follow

through on some recommendations by the legislature such as creating a Strategic Planning Commission within the Oklahoma Department of Commerce before the final list is made in 2005.

Braddock told the Altus Times today that although the situation may be scary, “I feel good about Altus Air Force Base. They do a great job of training our pilots.”

Although Braddock did say that he was “comfortable” about Altus’ position with the next round of closure recommendations he added, “We’ve got to get ready and prepared because it’s (the BRAC process) is coming.”



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Vance AFB OK



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **08-Jan-03**

---

**It may be difficult to get the \$4 million the Oklahoma Military Base Closure Prevention Task Force wants in its efforts to save Oklahoma's military bases, but it should be done, said Enid legislator Curt Roggow.**

"It's an all-or-nothing deal. It will largely depend on whether the governor wants to support the idea," Roggow, R-Enid, said.

The task force recommended that money be appropriated for community planning and advocacy to prepare for the next round of base closings, set for 2005. The task force recommended about \$250,000 be given to each community with a military base, including Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City/Midwest City; Fort Sill in Lawton; Altus Air Force Base, Altus; Vance in Enid; and the Army Ammunition Plant in McAlester. Those funds total \$1.25 million.

The money would go for such activities as hiring consultants for review of possible base weaknesses, such as Enid has done with retired Air Force Gen. J.B. Davis.

Another recommendation involves making funds available for training and retraining of civilian personnel at the bases. Tinker already has such a program and the intention is to bring all of the bases up to the Tinker standard, said Mike Cooper, co-chairman of the task force and member of the Vance Development Authority.

The total cost of the training and retraining initiative is \$2.75 million.

Roggow, who is also a member of the state task force, said he knows the state's budget situation is tight and \$4 million sounds like a lot of money, but in light of the entire budget picture, it is a small amount.

Roggow thinks saving the state's military bases should be considered an economic development issue, but said it will be fighting a lot of important issues, such as education funding.

"Education is the top of many people's lists, it being fully funded," he said.

The other side is Oklahoma's economic development and keeping the military presence in the state, which he called a "huge" contributing factor to economic development.

"If we can accept the fact that it is an important part of the economic picture, we can make sure it is funded," Roggow said.

State Rep. Mike O'Neal, R-Enid, thinks it will be difficult to pass those items.

"My priorities are education, public safety and road maintenance. Anything left after that we should fight about," O'Neal said.

He thinks Vance is important to Enid, but there also are schools, jails and roads to maintain, as well as health care issues to fund.

***Enid News & Eagle***

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 08-Jan-03**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Vance AFB OK



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **08-Jan-03**

---

**It may be difficult to get the \$4 million the Oklahoma Military Base Closure Prevention Task Force wants in its efforts to save Oklahoma's military bases, but it should be done, said Enid legislator Curt Roggow, Con't.**

"Everybody has to set their priorities. We're in the position we're in because we've never set priorities, but I won't vote against it," he said.

Roggow said Oklahoma is one of only seven states to not have lost a military facility or had one downsized in previous base-closing rounds. For that reason, he thinks the state may be in the crosshairs politically.

"It's not just an Enid deal, but an Oklahoma program," he said. "It contributes to our income tax and sales tax and the overall revenue picture for the state.

"Imagine a base shutting down and what it does to the state revenue stream," he said.

State Sen. Robert Milacek, R-Enid could not be reached Monday.

*Enid News & Eagle*  
**PAGE: Internet**  
**DATE: 08-Jan-03**